

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A substrate for an information recording medium, which is formed of a glass having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 600°C or higher and having an etching rate of 0.1 µm/minute or less with regard to a hydrosilicofluoric acid aqueous solution that is maintained at a temperature of 45°C and has a hydrosilicofluoric acid concentration of 1.72 % by weight.
2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO and K<sub>2</sub>O as essential components.
3. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 2, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 45 to 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 15 % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the total content of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> being 57 to 85 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO, 0 to 15 % of BaO, 0 to 15 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 2 to 30 %, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 8 % of Li<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 8 % of Na<sub>2</sub>O, the total content of K<sub>2</sub>O, Li<sub>2</sub>O and Na<sub>2</sub>O being 2 to 15 %, 0 to 12 % of ZrO<sub>2</sub> and 0 to 10 % of TiO<sub>2</sub>, the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

4. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO, Na<sub>2</sub>O and K<sub>2</sub>O and has a chemically strengthened layer.

5. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 4, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 10 % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the total content of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 1 to 10 % of Na<sub>2</sub>O, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 3 % of Li<sub>2</sub>O, the total content of Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O and Li<sub>2</sub>O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO<sub>2</sub>, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO<sub>2</sub>, the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

6. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO, BaO, Na<sub>2</sub>O and ZrO<sub>2</sub> as essential components and has a chemically strengthened layer,

7. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 10 % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the total content of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of

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CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 1 to 10 % of Na<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 15 % of K<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 3 % of Li<sub>2</sub>O, the total content of Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O and Li<sub>2</sub>O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO<sub>2</sub>, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO<sub>2</sub>, the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

8. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as

recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, which is for use in a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

9. (currently amended) An information recording medium having an information

recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in  
~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

10. (original) The information recording medium as recited in claim 8, which is a

perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode magnetic recording medium.

11. (currently amended) A process for manufacturing an information recording

medium, which comprises the step of forming an information recording layer on a

substrate for an information recording medium and uses the substrate for an information

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recording medium recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1 as said substrate, said step

comprising the procedure of heating said substrate to a temperature of 300 to 600°C.